

## THE WALZ RECORD ON EARMARK REFORM

This is Congressman Tim Walz's fourth year requesting appropriations projects for Minnesota's 1<sup>st</sup> District and in each successive year, Walz has insisted on increased transparency and asked his colleagues to join him in publicly disclosing information.

**2007:** Walz was the only member of the Minnesota delegation to release a complete list of his appropriations requests for FY2008.

Also in 2007, Walz successfully pushed to reform the previously secretive appropriations process in Congress. Under new rules implemented by the Democratic Majority that year, any project funded in an appropriations bill was and continues to be publicly attributed to the Member who requested it. Additionally, Members of Congress now must publicly certify that they do not have any financial interest in a project that they are requesting.

**2008:** Walz was the first member of the Minnesota delegation and one of only a handful of Representatives to include the dollar amount he requested in his public disclosure of FY2009 appropriations requests.

**2009:** Walz set out criteria to ascertain the impact each project will have on southern Minnesota. He is also making public additional details about projects public, including the requesting party, fiscal agent, and information supporting the necessity of the project.

Walz has posted his requests online every year of his tenure in Congress. He supports the added scrutiny this year which requires all Members of Congress to publish earmark requests and dollar amounts requested on their website at the time the requests are submitted to the House Appropriations Committee.

**2010:** Walz hosted a virtual hearing on his website to include southern Minnesotans in the process. This included posting requests he received online for one week to gather input from constituents on local priorities. To our knowledge, he is the only Member of Congress to ever do so. This year, the Appropriations Committee also followed Rep. Walz's lead and banned requests from for-profit companies.